

5 QUESTIONS

about becoming a Group Service Representative

- 1** Who can become a Group Service Representative? 

Any group member who has two or three years continuous sobriety may volunteer. However if there is no one with this period of sobriety who is willing to take this position, then the most qualified person available can be voted in by the group.
- 2** How will me becoming a GSR help the still-suffering Alcoholic? 

The GSR is the vital link between the groups and the local and national services. The local telephone help line, Twelfth Step list, Where-to-Finds and the publishing of AA literature, for example, all need to be organised. Without the GSRs this structure would collapse and this would be of no help to the newcomer.
- 3** How will being a GSR help me? 

An increase in self-confidence, an ability to handle responsibility, greater humility, a much wider circle of friends, improved organisational skills, a better perspective of the bigger AA picture, a feeling of usefulness and a greatly enhanced recovery are all benefits that past GSRs have mentioned.
- 4** How will being a GSR help my group? 

In the same way an individual alcoholic grows, learning to take part in the wider world, so the AA group grows spiritually by becoming involved in the wider circle of the Fellowship. Your group can and should have a voice in the running of the local and national services that continue to attract newcomers. It will also benefit from the greater level of unity with other groups by participating in this service.
- 5** How do I become a GSR? 

If you are interested or the call is made for volunteers, then consult your sponsor and experienced members of your group. They will certainly know if you are ready for this service position.



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The rewards of being a

GSR

Group Service Representative

It has been said many times that **Group Service Representative is the “most important service position within the Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous”**

The purpose of this pamphlet is to try and outline the huge rewards that result from taking on this service role



A unique opportunity

The position of Group Service Representative cannot be regarded as an ordinary group function. However it is a golden opportunity to take on a unique responsibility on behalf of your group. You will become the direct link between your group and all the other groups within your Intergroup which is part of a greater family of Alcoholics Anonymous in the United Kingdom. In many respects the unity of the Fellowship rests in the hands of the Group Service Representative. This is a position of complete trust, something that most of us lost while drinking and something that is most precious when regained in sobriety.

Willingness

This service position calls for a willingness to put others before oneself. This selfless attitude is essential to our recovery program and rarely fails to bring its own reward in terms of happy and contented sobriety. Service to Alcoholics Anonymous at this level also allows us to help any others on the road to recovery in a very special way, because it enhances all areas of our Fellowship's structure. After all it is by passing on the message to others that we guarantee our own recovery. Each group works its miracle of recovery on every willing newcomer, thus fulfilling the purpose and aim of the Fellowship as a whole.

Representing your group

“The final responsibility and the ultimate authority for Alcoholics Anonymous world services should always reside in the collective conscience of the whole Fellowship” (Concept I - ‘Twelve Concepts for World Service’). If the views, thoughts and conscience of a group are left unvoiced and unknown, how can the full democratic spirit of Alcoholics Anonymous be truly or effectively expressed? As a Group Service Representative (GSR) you will learn to know the feelings of and opinions of your group members enabling you, in turn, to express these and bring fresh ideas forward to your Intergroup. It is here that your commitments and involvement will create unifying contacts with other groups. Not only will your own group benefit from the knowledge, wider support and encouragement when you report back, but also more importantly you will.

The ‘Promises’

In early sobriety, ‘the promises’ often sound remote and unobtainable but as time elapses they begin to become a reality. As a GSR ‘the promises’ take on an even deeper meaning and they will strengthen your sobriety immeasurably.

‘Principles before personalities’

Some people are put off becoming a Group Service Representative by hearsay and talk of politics and arguments. However, it must be remembered that Intergroup is a business meeting not a normal group meeting and tolerance is a must. It is here that the phrase ‘principles before personalities’ becomes a working ethic. Intergroup is where unity, service and recovery (the Three Legacies) are forged through discussion and compromise. By finding the common purpose, despite any disagreements, a unified action can be taken.

Additional rewards

Working as a Group Service Representative will give you a greater self-knowledge, enhance your social skills, inspire confidence and help you learn to communicate WITH people. You will learn what it is like to have the complete trust and gratitude of your home group. As one GSR put it, “I felt immensely privileged that the members of my home group had enough faith in me to carry out this important role”.

Further information

Guideline 3

‘The AA Group’ pamphlet

Growing into Service

Twelve Concepts - Illustrated

The Twelve Traditions

Twelve traditions - Illustrated